

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SEC-01 FRB-01 SP-02 AID-05

EB-07 NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

LAB-04 SIL-01 L-02 H-01 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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R 271542Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8799

INFO AMCONSUL MILAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, IT

SUBJECT: EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON SINDONA CASE

PASS TREASURY - OASIA FOR WIDMAN, COMPTROLLER OF CURRENCY
FOR MULLIN, SERINO AND MELLAY; PASS SEC FOR KRAUT; PASS FRB;
PASS FDIC

REF: ROME 17141 (NOTAL)

1. TREASATT SPOKE TO FDIC LAWYER, MARIO ARDITO, ON DECEMBER
27 ABOUT COORDINATION OF USG INVESTIGATION OF FRANKLIN
NATIONAL BANK AND BANCH PRIVATA ITALIANA (BPI) AFFAIR. HE
EXPLAINED BACKGROUND BEHIND PROPOSED JANUARY VISIT OF REPS
OF SEC AND COMPTROLLER OF CURRENCY. ARDITO THEN BRIEFLY
DESCRIBED HIS INVESTIGATIONS TO DATE ON BEHALF OF FDIC,
INDICATING THAT HE HAS BEEN IN TOUCH MAINLY WITH DOTT.
BATTAGLIA, HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICE OF BANK OF ITALY, AND
BPI LIQUIDATOR AMBROSOLI. HE SAID THAT HE HAS BEEN INVESTIGAT-
ING, IN PARTICULAR, TWO CREDITS TOTALLING \$15 MILLION FROM FRANKLIN

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NATIONAL TO BANCA UNIONE (ONE OF TWO PREDECESSORS OF BPI)
MADE THROUGH INTERBANCA IN MILAN AND AMINCOR IN ZURICH.

2. TREASATT AND ARDITO AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ARDITO TO PARTICIPATE IN INITIAL MEETING OF USG REPS WITH BOI OFFICIALS IN ROME ON JANUARY 20. AT THIS MEETING DECISIONS CAN BE MADE ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED WITH CONTACTS WITH OTHER PARTIES INVOLVED, SUCH AS INTERBANCA, EDILCENTRO SVILUPPO, BANCO DI ROME, LIQUIGAS AND INVESTIGATING MAGISTRATES. ARDITO SUGGESTED, AND TREASATT AGREES, THAT IT WOULD BE CONVENIENT IF LIQUIDATOR AMBROSOLI COULD COME TO ROME FROM MILAN FOR THAT MEETING, SINCE HE APPARENTLY MAKES REGULAR TRIPS TO ROME IN ANY CASE. TREASATT WILL INFORM BOI OF LATEST PLANS FOR JANUARY VISIT AND WILL MAKE THIS REQUEST.

3. ARDITO WILL DISCREETLY CONTINUE HIS CONTACTS BETWEEN NOW AND JANUARY 20. IN MEANTIME, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT ALL INTERESTED PARTIES IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK KEEP IN CLOSE CONTACT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF US TEAM. WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMIND ALL PARTIES THAT ITALIAN AUTHORITIES VIEW EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AS RECIPROCAL. DURING VISIT OF US OFFICIALS THEY WILL BE SEEKING INFORMATION ON THIS CASE WHICH HAS BEEN DEVELOPED BY INTERESTED US PARTIES. VOLPE

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TAGS: EFIN, IT, US, FRANKLIN NATIONAL BANK
To: STATE
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